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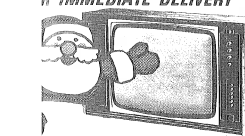
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WYCOMBE'S PLUCK IS NO MATCH FOR WATFORD'S CLASS

Experiment Fails In Giant-Killer Bid

A CROWD of 24,000, including an estimated Wycombe following of close on 8,000, saw Wycombe Wanderers go down, fighting gallantly, against superior professional opposition, in their first-ever F.A. Cup second round appearance against Fourth Division Watford at Watford on Saturday.

The Wycombe selectors' experiment of changing both the wing men — a move which caused heated controversy among supporters — failed to impart any marked additional punch in the Wanderers' forward line, which was subdued for much of the game by the wily Watford defence.

PROFESSIONALS IN COMMAND IN F.A. CUP CLASH

By Angus

Watford 5; Wycombe Wans. 1

BRAVE amateur hearts were no substitute for professional class at Watford, as Watford, on Saturday, won a record-breaking 13,997 crowd cheered Wycombe Wanderers' enthusiasm to the echo, but when it came to cook, calculated soccer skill and controlled power there was only one team in it—Fourth Division Watford.

Mr. Ron Burgess' so-called, so-called so-called team had all the trump cards — had all the wizard Barry Hartle, a conjuring demon of an inside forward to match tough-as-nails centre-half Vince McNeice and goal-hungry forwards Dennis Uphill and £10,000 Cliff Hulton.

Against these talents one Wycombe man stood out like the beaky head lightbulb on a stormy night — young John Beck who played a "dream" game at right-back, surely his best-ever performance for the club.

APPRECIATION

All the Wanderers boys ran their legs off in the quest for glory but it was Beck's composure and expert handling of the skilful Watford outside-left Freddie Buech which had even the match-hardened First Street critics clucking with appreciation.

For two minutes only did football's old-time Wanderers have a real chance of a "whistle-blow" in the 20th minute. Dennis Atkins broke through the Watford line with a shot which he crashed into the back of Jimmy Linton's net to equalise an earlier Uphill goal.

Then, within a few seconds, came the one-and-only opportunity to shake the rocky pride of their perch. Paul Bates, in a rush of Whistler's fury, McNeice's passing behind him on the right wing, sent another man on the line and centred a ball which struck the goalpost.

Traditionally, none of the forwards within whispering distance of the goal had touched the ball in and a Watford defender was able to smother the ball.

With this escape behind them, Watford's attack was not the resistance one of the amateur, Once Uphill and question of how many of the professionals would win by. Just a good, late heavyweight, Watford turned on the steam whenever they felt like it and when they did Wycombe's plucky defence had no answer.

Superior in all phases of the game, Watford had a counter-attack in Uphill who could move with half-chances in the grand manner, and he was the real match-winner.

Chasing hard and often to bolster a highly-suspect Wycombe defence, John Fisher joined Beck at the best of the Wycombe rearward. There was any amount of covering to do. Watford inside men Hutton and Hartle had the casting of Ron Fryer and Jim Trotter throughout the game, while John Benning, who ran the Watford right wing as if his name was Pigalle Wonder.

Added to these trouble-spots, Dennis Syrett looked nervous and was at fault with two of the Watford goals and extremely lucky to get away with at least one first half mistake.

Critics of the Wycombe defence chose could be seen for a certain "I lead it to the goal" attitude. There was never an effective defence to Watford's goal from either flank.

Gallantly though he played, Gerald Free was not the company man and just didn't know-how and experience to come with full-back Price while Dennis Atkins, who replaced Michael Rogers, was a wing, could only find one of the three-tennis in his armoury and this apart, did very little.

ONE MAN FORCE

Pick of the Wycombe forwards were Paul Bates, who was forced to come wide by the attentive McNeice, and Cliff Trotter, a one-man invasion force in the second half.

The Watford defence played solidly, wing halves racing into attack with the forwards, the ball moving sweetly towards the

Watford goal. Then a slush-minute goal by Uphill shattered the illusion and brought the Wanderers' supporters back to earth.

As swift as a dagger, Hartle side-stepped and dummied past two Wycombe defenders and his final pass left Uphill clear to smash a handsome drive past Syrett.

The fantastic Uphill-manager Burgess disclosed after the game that he was still shaking off a stomach disorder, yet another disaster shot over the Wanderers' crossbar from the

rough, two-footed tugging by the Watford defenders had the referee whistling persistently as Wycombe began to press. Bates was left wounded and on the ground after one tackle by the Watford defence.

The professionals made hay of Wycombe's defence in the 20 minutes immediately before half-time. Hutton hit a driving drive into Syrett's arms and Uphill missed a slip-up-by-chance after the goalkeeping by Dave Colyer, the ball, Cliff Hutton swept the ball wide of an open goal.

The game, while Jim Benning cracked at goal against a post and a thankful crowd, ended in the rebound.

QUICK GOALS

A beautiful header by Uphill and a solo bubble by Hutton secured two Watford goals in the early F.A. Cup rounds now.

Wycombe hopes of a recovery were soon shot down by an incredible goal from Vince McNeice. The 20th minute half-draw was the last hopefully goalless draw in the history of the game.

Watford's three-goal lead was secured by a goal from the 20th minute. The 20th minute half-draw was the last hopefully goalless draw in the history of the game.

HUTTON CRACKS

Two penalties in the first ten minutes gave Hutton a lead in scoring. Sensory Chubb whipped Bates into the final ten minutes, the home penalty area but Paul Bates, who was the nearest to the goal, was the nearest to the goal.

Not the Watford goal was a last minute goal at goal, after Fryer had fouled Bates in the Watford area, he hammered the ball moving sweetly towards the

By JIM MORING

replay with Cheltenham Town. So we thought we were a little wiser as to their prowess.

We also had the B.B.C. crew down to watch us in fitting and to talk to us about our thoughts on the game. I remember telling the interviewer I thought our chances were very poor, we were a strong side, feared in the south in the Amateur game, and could call upon many experienced

Not a goal conceded

IT all began on September 15 when Wycombe Wanderers made the arduous trip down to the docks at Tilbury. It was here that the Blues started their F.A. Cup run with a 3-0 victory — perhaps the best performance in the Cup this term.

Wycombe were faced by a Tilbury side that was sitting on top of the Rothmans Isthmian League Division 2 (Wycombe were fourth in Division 1) and full of confidence. Wanderers were hardly feeling on top of the world. Only three days previous they had been well and truly thrashed at Walton and Hertham 4-1.

For what manager Brian Lee described as their "toughest game yet" the Wanderers welcomed back John Maskell and Steve Perin and these two gave the side the boost they needed.

Man of the match, though, had to be Mick Holdfield. It was Mick who put Wycombe on the road to victory with two first half goals, the first a real gem. Keith Searle got the better of big centre-half Norman Welch and scored the third goal to make sure of a place in round two.

Here they met fellow league club Woking. A quiet in the fixtures meant the two teams met at Loakes Park on Tuesday before the cup match. Wycombe scored the first goal, but Woking equalised in the last minute penalty by Tony Horsman sealed the points and so an even encounter was expected three days later.

It was not to be. Despite another excellent display of goalkeeping by Dave Colyer, who incidentally was charged off by admiring home fans at the end of the match, the Blues eased home with a Keith Searle goal in the 14th minute.

The crowd at Loakes Park was some 2,000 strong and they saw Wycombe dominate the game for virtually all of the 90 minutes.

The Cup draw the following Monday paired Wanderers away to Chatham Town. Little was known about the Kent side, but they were semi-professional. It looked ominous.

Few could have expected the final outcome on October 20. The scoreline was no mistake. Chatham Town 0, Wycombe Wanderers 7. After the first half an hour there was little doubt about the outcome, many chiding the Wanderers for not making the most of their lead.

Two more by Keith Searle and another Horsman goal completed the rout. It was difficult to assess Wycombe's performance, except that they were semi-professional. It looked ominous.

Wycombe supporters wishing to make the trip should either contact Mr. Roy Jones after tomorrow's game or should buy tickets from Jeffways Travel in Castle Street. The coaches leave by 9 a.m.

REPLAY SET FOR TUESDAY

If a replay is necessary after tomorrow's (Saturday) F.A. Cup tie between Wycombe Wanderers and Newport, it will be staged on a commanding 4-0 lead.

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'Feared in the South' then we lost 5-1!

When Mr Sports Editor, Stuart Earp, asked me if I would like to contribute to this feature I was delighted. Let's face it, we all like to reminisce.

I hope the following will give many faithful supporters pleasure and enable them to relive the last encounters between Wycombe Wanderers and professional league sides.

The match at Northampton in 1958 was played in front of a crowd of some 10,000 and on a very heavy pitch. One could not accuse the crowd of being partisan for at least 50 per cent were from Wycombe. And most certainly made their presence felt to the Wanderers players, as indeed they always do.

The pitch itself was perfectly flat being part of the outfield of the Northampton cricket ground, regrettably this meant that the majority of the spectators were on three sides only, and I don't think any player enjoys this, for it takes away some of the atmosphere.

As for the match itself, bearing in mind it took place some 15 years ago, I remember few specific details. I do remember that it was a hard game in the mud with the Wanderers players lasting as well as their professional opponents. I have a general consensus of opinion here was that the Blues had not deserved to lose.

My own impression was that we had played well enough to win, but I find myself still happy today we did not win our chances.

For many of the XI who had played that day it was their first experience of playing against a league side in a competitive game, an experience we all enjoyed, except the result.

The following year, as a result of another good run we found ourselves drawn away to Watford, who were then a division IV side. This game had a much more local flavour, with one of our team, Denis Atkins, having

his employer on the Watford Board of Directors.

In our preparation for this match we had been fortunate to watch our opponents in their

players under the management of Sid Cann.

When I saw myself on the match we had been fortunate to watch our opponents in their players under the management of Sid Cann.

And the result the next day, a 5-1 defeat, brought me many amusing letters and notes from friends.

As to the game itself there is no doubt we were beaten by the professional "know-how." Although their last two goals came in the final ten minutes, they were always that little bit quicker than we the amateurs, and harder in the tackle.

I do remember the size of the crowd, some 24,000, and I am sure many clubs would like to see that kind of attendance in the early F.A. Cup rounds now.

In recalling these two games I would like to remind you of the names of some of the players involved in their turn gave such service to the Wanderers and enjoyment to supporters. Bates, Jack Fisher, Paul Bates, John Trotter, John Benning, John Fryer, John Fisher, Fred Lawson, Jim Trotter, Ray Houson, Gerry Free.

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